

Gc

977.701

J630

42nd REPT.

1908

M. L.

Gc  
977.701  
J63o  
42nd Rept.  
1908  
1524720

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01084 7033

Gc  
977.701  
J63o  
42nd Re  
1908  
1524720



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2013

<http://archive.org/details/yearbookofoldset42olds>

Gc  
977.  
J63o  
42nd  
1908  
1524'

FORTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

OLD SETTLERS *Association*

OF

JOHNSON COUNTY, *Iowa*

AUGUST 20, 1908



Gc  
977.7  
J63o  
42nd  
1908  
15247



PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA  
AT THE FAIR GROUNDS AUGUST 20, 1908

---

The forty-second annual reunion of the Old Settlers of Johnson county is an event of the past. In recording the event the officers of the association will state that the reunion held at the log cabin Thursday afternoon was one of the most successful held in the history. The weather united with the efforts of the committees in making the affair an enjoyable one. Following the public dinner, the program, consisting of several numbers, was held. Rev. Schwimley invoked the divine blessing. President Charles Baker then spoke a few words and introduced Woods White of Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. White is the son of Dr. W. H. White, formerly of this city. He spoke of recollections and made a very short informal talk. Judge Wade was then introduced. He spent some time in telling amusing stories and closed with a glowing tribute to the manner in which the pioneers endured the hardships of the time in which they lived and at the same time built up the community for their children who are now following them. Matthew Cavanaugh was called upon to read the letters written to the association by those who intended to be here but were unable to attend. Mrs. Hoxie read a familiar poem and the program was ended.

The election of officers, which was held immediately after the program, resulted in the choice of the following:

President—George R. Hall.

Vice President—M. S. Shircliffe.

Secretary—G. R. Irish.

Treasurer—H. J. Wieneke.

### THE LETTERS.

The following letters were read before the reunion by M. Cavanaugh. They contain many interesting details and are given in full:

Council Bluffs, Iowa, July 24, '08.

M. Cavanaugh, Mary O. Coldren, Geo. W. Ball,  
Committee.

Dear Old Friends:—I assure you that nothing I know of would give me more pleasure than to be present at the "meeting of the Old Settlers of Johnson county," on August the 20th. But from the present outlook am afraid it will be impossible. My earliest recollections of Iowa City and Johnson county, date back to September, 1841. My father died there in 1845, and some of the sweetest memories of my life are in the 25 years spent in old Johnson county.

Hoping you will have a full turn out, and a memorable meeting, I am

Yours truly,

ALPHONSO B. WALKER.

Aledo, Illinois, August 17, '08.

To the Committee of Old Settlers Association.

Gentlemen:—I am in receipt of your kindly remem-

brance, the invitation to your annual meeting of Old Settlers of Johnson county, and I have delayed thus long, thinking could arrange to be in attendance but find that it will be impossible for me to do so.

I would be glad to look into the dear old faces and speak my greetings to each one, as I would clasp their aged hands and with thankfulness remember our heavenly Father who has kept us so long, and a prayer that He will continue his mercies and loving kindness in the years to come, hoping they may be many.

Wishing for you a pleasant day and enjoyable coming together, I am,

Very cordially yours,

MRS. VIRGINIA HANBY WRIGHT.

Omaha, Nebraska, August 6, '08.

M. Cavanaugh, Mary O. Coldren, Geo. W. Ball.

To the Hon. Committee of the Old Settlers Association of Johnson county, Iowa, to be held at Iowa City, August 20th, 1908. Mrs. Dr. Henry Murray sends greetings and best wishes for a good time.

My good husband and myself were at the organization of the Old Settlers Association, and we always took a deep interest in the annual meetings, and while we lived there were always present. The infirmities of old age forbids my bodily presence today, but my heart is with you.

When I came to Iowa City in 1841, a bride, all of the now beautiful city north of Market street was a wilderness. The principal business was on the two blocks at the intersection of Clinton and Jefferson streets. And all east of Johnson street was very wild. Beautiful College street park was a wild strawberry patch and a rattle

snake den. When memory turns back to these things, and sees the wonderful changes that the years have wrought it seems almost like a dream.

When I remember all the legion of dear friends of these early days, who have one by one gone to the shadowy land I feel almost alone, and think it very, very kind and sweet of your committee on invitations to remember me, whose home for over fifty years was in Iowa City. But under force of circumstances was compelled to make my home elsewhere.

Iowa City is always a loved spot, and very dear to my heart, and its prosperity is always a gratification to me.

And now good friends, I wish you a jolly good time, not only today, but for many years to come.

Very sincerely yours,

MRS. DR. HENRY MURRAY.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 3, 1908.

My Dear Friends:—I am very much indebted and obliged for your kind invitation to be present at Old Settlers meeting, August 20, 1908. I should be much pleased to be with you and renew acquaintance with you and so many whom I remember so kindly.

Yours,

S. M. FINCH.

Rockaway, California, July 15, '08.

Hon. M. Cavanaugh:—My wife and family join me in acknowledging receipt, and thanking you for the invitation to the "Old Settlers" meeting, a place we would like

to go, but circumstances are such we will not be able to attend. We are enjoying the cool, invigorating air of the Pacific and will be glad to welcome either of you should you pass this way—and extend our regards to all the old settlers, and tell them we hope they will have a pleasant day and enjoy themselves as old settlers can.

Yours,

HENRY N. BERRY.

Washington, D. C., August 12, '08.

Major Richard Sylvester presents his compliments and best wishes to M. Cavanaugh, Mary O. Coldren, George W. Ball, committee, and to the old settlers of Johnson county, Iowa, for their kind invitation extended to his mother and himself to be present at the annual gathering of the pioneers of Johnson county to be held on the 20th day of August, 1908.

Major Sylvester is the oldest of forty-three grandchildren born in the state of Iowa, many of them grown up to manhood and womanhood, and who have gone out to engage in the battle of life in the various sections of our country and carried with him the fondest recollections of his birth place made doubly dear by reason of his grandfather, Rev. Robert W. W. Woods, a former pioneer in the settlement of the magnificent county of Johnson and his father the late R. H. Sylvester, having started in life as a newspaper man in Iowa City where he became prominent for many years in the affairs of that locality and for the further reason that from this country many of his relatives went into the war of the rebellion many years ago and since that time several of their num-



ber have found resting places in the cemetery at Wood's addition.

Major Sylvester feels it is a great disappointment that he cannot be with you owing to circumstances over which he has no control, but he sends greetings, best wishes and assurances of his esteem for all those who may participate and prays that they may have a profitable and enjoyable time and he hopes that another year there may be afforded him an opportunity to join with those friends of his mother's and his own childhood days in their annual assembly.

Fishers Island, N. Y., July 28, '08

Dear Mr. Cavanaugh:—I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your kind invitation for the 20th of August and I thank you most heartily for it.

As I take it this invitation is sent me, as the only living representative of my father, who was one of the early settlers of Iowa City. And yet in a sense I think I may justify a recognition on my own account from the fact that I was among the first of those who were born there. The fact that I did not first see the light of day elsewhere and afterwards emigrate to Iowa City, did not render me any the less an early settler.

This circumstance of my birth in Iowa City gives me a great affection for the place, and I confess that, though the major part of my life has been lived elsewhere, as the years roll on I find my thoughts turning more and more to the old home of my boyhood, and I begin to feel that I should like to end my life there, where it began.

You can, therefore, understand how deeply your kind

invitation is appreciated, and were it possible, I should be glad to be present with you. It is possible that I may be able to visit Iowa City this fall, but I regret that I will not be able to be there early enough for the time designated for your meeting.

How many of the old settlers of pioneer days, contemporaries of my father, are now living I do not know, but I am persuaded that the honor of being a pioneer is a distinction that is not now lightly regarded, if I may judge from what I have often noticed in the newspapers of Iowa City. It seems to be the view of the editor, no matter how recently his own residence there may have begun, to regard it, that any one having preceded him in such residence occupies a most enviable position, and is justly entitled to be called a pioneer, evidently considering that to be one of the most honorable distinctions that can be accorded. And so I have often noticed that the death of such a resident is chronicled with headlines in large type "Another Pioneer Gone." Although the advent of the deceased in Iowa City was long after the pioneer period had passed. I have often wondered that my esteemed friend, Mr. Gill Irish, who knows what the real pioneer days were, has not, notwithstanding his great amiability, raised the voice of protest, not that those who came later are not appreciated, for they are deserving of all honor, and we, (if I may say we) open wide the doors and they may have every distinction within our recognition, save only one, that of pioneer. In time they may be ranked as "Old Settlers," the older the better, and the nearer they are to the pioneer the greater the distinction to which they are entitled, but the supreme and highest of all is, and must ever belong to him who led the way—the pioneer.

Again thanking you and regretting my inability to be present, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

THEO. F. SANXAY.



Cupertino, California.

Mr. Cavanaugh:—Your card of invitation to be present at the annual meeting of the old settlers of Johnson county is gratefully acknowledged.

That I cannot be present occasions much regret.

I may offer as a sentiment, may the inheritance so near to the entire surrender of the "old settlers" into the hands of their children and their foster children be kept untarnished and sacred to the memory of the noble men and women whose life record bears no stain of dishonor.

J. S. PICKARD,  
A Foster Son.

---

### SOME OLD SETTLERS.

Frederick W. Hempstead of Newport Center was the oldest person on the grounds at the picnic. He is past 94 years and has been a resident of this county for many years.

Mr. F. X. Rittenmeyer, aged 92, was the second oldest resident. He will be 93 years of age in about two months. Mr. Rittenmeyer came to this city in 1856 and was the supporter of many enterprises. He was telling a story at the picnic of his experiences with steamboats on the Iowa river.

J. K. Strawbridge who is 90 years of age, was also at the reunion.

Sion Hill, aged 88, who came to the county in 1838, related some of his experiences during the first celebra-

tion of the 4th of July in 1839. He was also present at the laying of the corner stone of the Old Capitol building.

Miss Hannah Ten Eyke, the first white child born in Iowa City and William Dunkel, the first white boy born in Iowa City were at the reunion.

W. N. Chalfant, Bryan Dennis and J. K. Strawbridge, who are the only three survivors of the first 60 who signed the constitution of the Old Settlers Association, were present.

In looking over the records of the organization it was found that only ten of the first 110 signers are living. The three mentioned above, together with J. P. Irish, C. R. McCrory, John E. Jayne, A. Beermaker, Jas. T. Robinson, A. E. Swisher and Matthew Cavanaugh.

Among the other oldest settlers who were present at the picnic were the following: Mrs. Ritter, aged 90, who settled here in 1838; Mrs. Dennis, aged 82; Mrs. Tucker, aged 93, who settled here in 1843; Mrs. Tantlinger, aged 74, who settled here in 1842; Jacob Stover, aged 85, settled here in 1838; Henry Walker, aged 71, settled here in 1838; Garret Lancaster, aged 80, who settled here in 1838; Mrs. Le Grand Byington, aged 83, who settled here in 1849; J. T. Robinson, aged 86, who settled here in 1840 and has been prominent in the political life of the county; William Emmons, aged 70, who is now residing in Portland, Oregon; Samuel Spinden, aged 76, who settled here in 1847; A. W. Beuter, aged 72 and settled here in 1848; J. E. Adams, aged 75, and who settled here in 1855; Mrs. Franklin Kimball, aged 83, and settled here in 1839; Alex Huffman, aged 74 and who settled here in 1850; Mrs. Joel Clark, aged 65, who settled here in 1844; M. Cavanaugh, aged 76, who settled here in 1839; J. A.

Stevenson, aged 84, who settled here in 1856. Mrs. Walter Lee, Sr., of Chicago, the daughter of Prof. Parvin, was at the picnic grounds.

---

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions were adopted which thanked the retiring officers and committees for the work done in preparing for the reunion; Bruce Moore for making the delicious coffee; the papers for the publicity and mention given for the plans for the reunion; and to W. Hughes for the music played during the day.

---

## THOSE ENROLLED

Those present who enrolled their names upon the books of the secretary were as follows:

John L. Adams  
Ira J. Alder  
J. E. Adams and wife  
Albert Bumgardner  
Wm. J. Bowen  
W. H. Buchanan  
George T. Borland  
David Borts  
John A. Burk  
O. A. Byington  
Mary Byington  
J. G. Beck  
W. D. Cannon  
Thos. Crozier

Matthew Cavanaugh  
Thomas Cox  
Earl Custer  
Mrs. J. H. Clark  
J. C. Cochran  
Sarah P. Cropley  
J. K. Corlett  
Bryan Dennis  
Nicholas Dalscheid  
Elizabeth Dennis  
David M. Dixon  
John Dohrer  
L. D. Davis  
Wm. Dunkel

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| William Ernest            | John A. Stevenson       |
| John Greulich             | J. W. Schell            |
| E. H. Ely                 | A. E. Swisher           |
| Minnie Evans              | George Hunter           |
| William Evans             | Esther E. Hunter        |
| S. P. Fry                 | R. P. Howell            |
| Annie M. Fry              | Sion Hill               |
| S. H. Fairall             | A. R. Hedges            |
| Isaac and Mrs. Furbish    | G. R. Hall              |
| Arthur Folsom             | Charles Heinsius        |
| R. B. Graham              | Wilhelmina Horton       |
| W. A. Kettlewell and wife | Jonathan Ham            |
| A. G. Kent                | Chas. Huebner and wife  |
| George W. Koontz          | J. R. Hughes            |
| C. F. Lovelace            | T. D. Hughes            |
| J. J. Metzger             | Mrs. Mary Hemphill      |
| F. M. McReynolds          | Annie Hope              |
| Lydia McKray              | George A. Hitchcock     |
| W. H. Mella               | O. C. Hill              |
| Mary E. Miller            | Alexander Huffman       |
| Mary L. Miller            | L. W. Hardin            |
| Bruce Moore and wife      | Lemuel Hunter           |
| George McGruder           | Mrs. C. W. Irish        |
| M. J. Moon                | Miss Elizabeth Irish    |
| Mrs. Joseph Michael       | Mrs. G. R. Irish        |
| Mrs. R. J. Miller         | G. R. Irish             |
| J. W. Murphy              | John E. Jayne           |
| Thomas Metcalf            | John Jacobs             |
| Benjamin Owen             | Samuel C. Jones         |
| George W. Pinnèy          | O. A. Byington          |
| W. A. Pratt               | Frank Stratton          |
| Elias Patterson           | Joseph E. Stouffer      |
| Chas. H. Palmer           | Adam Schwimley          |
| Iowa Byington Reed        | N. W. Scales            |
| Jacob Ricker              | Frederick Schneider     |
| F. X. Rittenmeyer         | M. S. Shircliffe        |
| Mrs. Ricord               | Euclid Sanders and wife |
| H. L. Rowland             | Frank Stackman and wife |
| James T. Robinson         | Joseph Slavata          |
| Milton Remley             | Mary H. Ten Eyke        |
| Chas. E. Robinson         | Hiram Toms              |
| D. A. Reese               | W. S. Thomas            |
| Mary M. Randall           | Thesba Tarbox           |
| W. A. Rohret              | Mary Von Stein          |
| Mrs. C. M. Riley          | Isaac S. Weeks          |
| A. A. Roegler             | E. P. Whitacre          |
| Horace Sanders            | Henry Wieneké           |

Mrs. Henry Wieneke  
Edna B. Wilson  
James White  
Henry Walker

Mrs. Joseph Walker  
Martha S. Walker  
Samuel Yarbrough  
Eliza Yarbrough

---

## NECROLOGICAL REPORT FOR PAST YEAR

To the Old Settlers Association of Johnson County, Iowa:

Again the frosts of winter have touched with the finger of death the flowers and trees, covered the hills and dales with a shroud of snow, and converted the rippling streams into dead and silent masses of glittering ice.

Again the balmy air of springtime has uncovered the snow clad hills, touched with life the dormant buds and unlocked the frozen streams. Again the summer heat has clothed the earth in a mantle of green, and brought back to us the flowers, the fruit and fields of waving grain. Again the shortening days, the receding sun and smoky air reminds us that another year is past and soon all things will be touched with the deathlike hand of winter. The list of Old Settlers who have died since the last reunion is of unprecedented length, and contains the names of many long time members of the association and those who have been prominent in business and social circles. As far as obtainable the ages are given.

MRS. J. M. IRISH  
G. R. IRISH

Iowa City, August 20, 1908.

Committee

AUGUST, 1907

| Name.               | Age | Name           | Age |
|---------------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Mrs. Bridget Galvin | 80  | Christian Kurz | 80  |

SEPTEMBER, 1907.

|                          |             |                     |    |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----|
| John N. Watson           | 29          | Mrs. David Henry    |    |
| Mrs. Catherine Matoush   | 75          | Albert Ranshaw      | 25 |
| Harry Figg               | 31          | John Krupp          | 65 |
| Michael Kessler          | 78          | Joseph Gimble       | 49 |
| John A. Hughes           | 83, 8m, 9d. | Mrs. Anna Weber     | 80 |
| Mrs. Lillian White Grant |             | Mrs. John D. Colony | 66 |
| Mrs. John M. Fisher      | 69          | Cemiah Snair        | 73 |
| Delbert E. Hawk          | 17          |                     |    |

OCTOBER, 1907.

|                 |    |                    |    |
|-----------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Geo. W. Bale    | 72 | Mrs. John Thompson |    |
| J. E. Sullivan  | 30 | Mrs. C. D. Wolf    | 54 |
| Joseph Sedovec  |    | Wm. Baughman       | 58 |
| Zachariah Smith | 82 | Leo Strohmeier     | 20 |
| Laurence Cusack | 83 | Alexander Corbitt  | 77 |
| Dr. M. B. Moon  | 65 | James Machovec     | 60 |

NOVEMBER, 1907.

|                    |    |                       |    |
|--------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| John Startzer      | 76 | Albert Neider         | 21 |
| James Monroe Adams | 79 | Chas. Magowan         | 49 |
| Wm Rittenmeyer     | 48 | LeGrande Byington     | 91 |
| L. D. Porch        | 62 | Mrs. Joseph Chadek    | 72 |
| Mrs. Peter Huffman | 85 | Mrs. Ernest Landsberg | 45 |
| Miles K. Lewis     | 82 | John Zeigler          | 48 |
| John Meade         | 77 |                       |    |

DECEMBER, 1908.

|                          |    |                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| Charles Chansky          | 78 | John Jones (Colored)     | 64 |
| Mrs. Dora Zager          | 70 | Mrs. Catherine Leslie    | 86 |
| Mrs. Minnie P. Parmley   | 40 | Abraham Rarick           | 73 |
| Mrs. Anna Eaton          |    | Mrs. Mary E. Cambridge   | 69 |
| Mrs. Minnie S. Schofield |    | Mrs. Martin Vevera       | 33 |
| A. C. Carson             | 70 | Hiram Rhoadarmer         |    |
| Mrs. Jessie H. Hartsock  |    | Miss Annie Francis       | 69 |
| George A. O'Brien        | 46 | Jacob McVey              | 73 |
| Paul Ward (Colored)      | 94 | Mrs. Catherine Gallagher | 74 |



## JANUARY, 1908.

|                           |    |                          |    |
|---------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| Joseph Love               | 80 | Miss Louisa Biebesheimer |    |
| Joseph Kasper             | 73 | Pansy Evans              | 18 |
| John Hrdlicka             | 64 | Mrs. Jennie G. Abbot     | 62 |
| Mrs. Rose Tanner Hess     | 55 | Mrs. James Cherry        | 80 |
| James Unash, Sr.          | 55 | Mrs. Harriett H. Breene  | 71 |
| Henry Vanderlip           | 71 | Mrs. Josephine Denter    | 77 |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Alberhasky | 56 | Joseph Panzer            |    |
| John Kennedy              | 75 | Mrs. M. Fitzgerald       |    |
| Samuel Hinkley            | 89 | Mrs. Charles Bryan       | 37 |

## FEBRUARY, 1908.

|                          |    |                           |    |
|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| James Bartacek           | 35 | Mrs. Frances Beszdek      | 55 |
| Mrs. Samuel Manatt       |    | Mrs. Catherine Schneider  | 81 |
| Thomas Connor            | 89 | Mrs. C. C. Swartzendruber | 74 |
| Frank Mekota             | 74 | Miss Anna Floerschinger   | 38 |
| John Dilatush            | 79 | Mrs. Barney Mattimore     | 69 |
| Mrs. Annie Weeks         | 90 | Thomas Morrissey          | 70 |
| Jacob Fesler             | 80 | Mrs. Mary Pudil           |    |
| Mrs. Elizabeth D. Taylor | 83 | Joseph Babbitt            | 45 |
| H. K. Simonton           | 71 | Wm. H. Cotter             | 83 |
| John Chansky             | 81 | Mrs. Nancy Adams          | 81 |
| Mrs. Margaret Champion   | 94 | Patrick Quinlan           | 78 |
| Mrs. C. Zimmerman        | 85 | Mrs. Joseph A. Darner     | 35 |
| Mrs. Ellen Noonan        | 35 | F. L. Lewis               |    |
| Mrs. Joseph Yanda        | 58 | Miss Mollie Stoner        | 30 |
| James Sherman            | 47 | Bryan H. Dennis           | 30 |

## MARCH, 1908.

|                          |    |                            |    |
|--------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|
| Mrs. J. W. Butler        | 55 | Mrs. Marie Fischer         | 81 |
| William C. Anthony       |    | John Sherman               | 72 |
| Mrs. Eliza B. Cadwalader |    | Mrs. Ada C. Nesmith        | 39 |
| William Cole             | 38 | Ed. Cannon                 | 42 |
| Mrs. Charles Lewis       | 70 | Mrs. Bertha Dehner         | 67 |
| Martin Bressler          |    | Mrs. Peter Frantz          | 67 |
| Frank Tillotson          | 60 | Mrs. Wm. Elliott           | 84 |
| Mrs. Thomas Morrissey    | 40 | Mrs. Deborah Cowperthwaite |    |
| Richard A. Carleton      | 65 |                            | 93 |
| Dr. Oscar Kuntze         |    | Timothy Kalene             |    |
| John Kubik               | 73 | Mrs. Margaret Runyon       | 59 |
| Owen Rowland             | 78 | S. S. Hess                 |    |
| Charles Shircliff        |    | Alfred G. Blair            | 37 |
| James Conlon             | 56 | Mrs. Thos. Gregory         | 56 |
| Abeth Burns              |    | Sarah A. Figg              | 77 |
| Mrs. Anna Robinson Rule  |    | Mayme Ryan                 | 30 |



APRIL, 1908.

|                    |    |                       |    |
|--------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| Mrs. Jonas Miller  | 60 | Mrs. Finetta Schley   | 75 |
| J. V. McRaith      |    | Alexander Lindley     | 79 |
| Mrs. John Rohrig   | 65 | Stephen J. Yoder      |    |
| Mrs. Mary Schlenck | 70 | Ira Schindhelm        | 24 |
| Daniel Corbett     | 77 | Mrs. Catherine Hawley | 64 |
| John Smiley        | 85 | Mrs. Sarah Holmes     | 75 |
| Thomas Pursall     | 58 | James Smith           | 78 |
| Mrs. Michael Kelly |    |                       |    |

MAY, 1908.

|                    |    |                         |    |
|--------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| Samuel J. Hess     | 83 | Mrs. Anna Prybil        | 61 |
| James A. Borland   |    | Mrs. Timothy Fairchild  | 68 |
| Albert Swaner      |    | Richard W. Whittaker,   | 78 |
| Julia Dicus        | 33 | Mary C. Myers           |    |
| Nathan Owens       |    | Emily Catherine Merrill | 90 |
| Kathryn Brennan    | 25 | Mrs. Ellen Vanfleet     | 79 |
| John Hunter        | 82 | Mrs. John Carroll       | 77 |
| Edward Breese      |    | Mrs. Geo. Dansdill      |    |
| Samuel B. Shellady |    | F. J. Epeneter          | 74 |

JUNE, 1908.

|                   |    |                     |    |
|-------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Dr. S. N. Fellows | 78 | Geo. W. Nelson      | 79 |
| Mrs. Mary Peters  | 88 | Mrs. Charles Dummer | 75 |
| Mrs. Wm. Harback  |    | Mrs. Philip Omsler  | 40 |
| Joseph Schonborn  |    | Alva Oathout        | 74 |
| Joseph Strohmeyer | 65 | Mrs. J. F. Shepherd | 73 |

JULY, 1908.

|                     |    |                      |    |
|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Rev. Patrick Smyth  | 58 | Mrs. Daniel Gillis   |    |
| Miss Emily H. Starr | 46 | Eli Bell             | 75 |
| Mrs. Vienna V. Paul | 84 | John W. Jayne        | 89 |
| Mrs. M. K. Ahrens   | 74 | Mrs. Dennis Kerrigan | 71 |

AUGUST, 1908.

|                   |    |                     |    |
|-------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Dr. James Rigg    |    | Mrs. Mary J. Barrer | 71 |
| Joseph Kettlewell |    | Albert J. Zenishek  | 85 |
| Jas. Robinson     | 79 | Mrs. J. W. Fackler  | 59 |

The executive committee ordered the procuring and publication of sketches of Philip Clark and Eli Myers. The pictures will recall to a few of the members of the association many events of the early times.

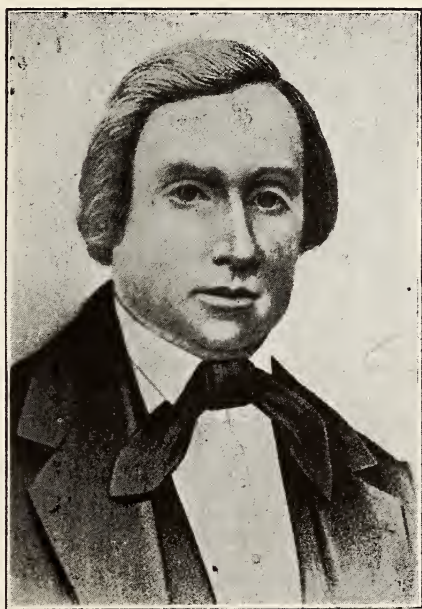
## ELI MYERS.

Eli Myers was born September 20, 1813, in Preble Co., Ohio. In search of a place to locate he visited the then new settlements in Elkhart county, Indiana, in 1836. There he formed the acquaintance of Philip Clark, who like himself, was seeking a location for a home.

Learning that the Indians were about to sell and vacate a large tract of land west of the Mississippi river, the two young men determined to examine the new country. Procuring saddle horses and provisions they made their way to the then four year old town of Chicago where they found the infant city to be only a few frail houses in the marshes at the mouth of a fever breeding river.

Continuing westward they reached Fort Armstrong in time to cross the river and witness the gathering of the thousand warriors, orators and braves that met Governor Dodge of Wisconsin at that point in September, 1836, to treat for the sale and surrender of the lands comprised in the Keokuk reserve. Among the many who attended the treaty was John Gilbert, an Indian trader stationed on the Iowa river and by his invitation Myers and Clark extended their trip to his trading post and after an examination of the country they determined to locate their homes in that vicinity and at once proceeded to stake the boundaries of their prospective farms and build upon each a cabin, thus becoming the first owners of farms and houses in what is now Johnson county.

The land selected by Mr. Myers for a farm was about one mile southeast from the trading house, and in the



ELI MYERS.

spring of 1837 there was turned the first furrow in the county. In the month of May of that year breaking was done for Philip Clark and Henry Felkner. Mr. Myers improved his farm and retained its ownership for many years. It was long known in Pleasant Valley as the Myers farm.

In December, 1840, Mr. Myers was married to Miss Sarah A. Kidder, the daughter of John M. and Lydia Kidder of Seneca county, N. Y. Some years later he became the owner of the south half of block one in the county seat addition of Iowa City and there built a very substantial brick residence.

In the spring of 1850 Mr. Myers and his fellow pioneer, Philip Clark, with a splendid outfit of horse teams, left Iowa City for a trip to the gold mines of California. Their journey was long and eventful. They at once engaged in mining but the long time friends were soon separated. Mr. Myers was taken ill and died in Sacramento City, October 23, 1850, at the age of 37 years. He was survived by his wife and three daughters. Mrs. Myers continued to reside in Iowa City for many years, and died at the home of her daughter in Salt Lake in March, 1891.

In religion Mr. Clark was a Catholic. Mr. Myers was a Universalist. Both were democrats. Mr. Clark was prominent as one of the early officers of the county. Mr. Myers was an active and honored member of the community but would never accept of public office. The finely improved farms of the two pioneers were monuments to their industry and skill as farmers and the respect of all who knew them is their best epitaph.

G. R. IRISH.

## PHILIP CLARK—FOUNDER OF THE FIRST HOME IN JOHNSON COUNTY.

One hundred and fifty-nine years ago Marquette floated in silent wonder along what is now the eastern border of Iowa, and seventy-seven years ago, or, in September, 1832, the representatives of the United States and of the Sac and Fox nation of Indians met upon the west bank of the Mississippi river within the present limits of the city of Davenport and negotiated a treaty by which the Indians sold to the United States six million acres of land. The tract of land was bounded on the east by the Mississippi river and on the west by a line beginning on the north line of Missouri and extending in a northeasternly direction to the mouth of the Upper Iowa river and being about fifty miles west of the Mississippi river throughout its entire length.

Within this strip of country the Indians reserved four hundred square miles of land on the right bank of the lower Iowa river near its mouth for their own use. That body of land was known as the Keokuk reserve.

In September, 1836, over one thousand chiefs and braves of the Sac and Fox Indians met Governor Dodge of Wisconsin near the site of the meeting of 1832 and negotiated a treaty by which the United States became the owners of the Keokuk reserve.

The gathering at the treaty of September, 1836, was remarkable in that it was composed of the greatest number comprising all of the great warriors and orators and chiefs of the Sac and Fox nation that had ever assembled to treat with the white men, and for the reason that at that time the United States gave to Antonie Le Claire,

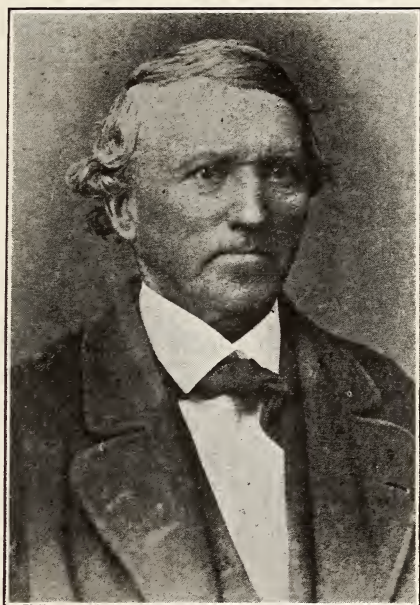


who had acted as interpreter during the formation of the treaty, two sections of land and this was the first transfer of land to a private individual in Iowa.

The treaty of September, 1836, is memorable also for the reason that then and there originated the first settlement of Johnson county. As nearly as is known, about 1826, the American Fur Company established a trading post on the Iowa river in what is now the northeast quarter of section ten where a little stream empties into the river from the east. John Gilbert was their agent there for many years and with the Indians of this locality he attended the treaty of 1836 and while there formed the acquaintance of two young men who were in quest of a place to locate homes. Mr. Gilbert invited them to come with him to the trading post on the Iowa river, and see for themselves the many advantages of that locality. Mounting their horses the trader and his two guests took the deep worn trail of the Indians and in due time reached the trading house on the banks of the Iowa. Impressed with the beauty of the landscape and the evident fertility of the soil they located claims and proceeded to build cabins upon the land they had selected for their future homes.

Then as the frosts of autumn began to fall they returned to the settlements in northern Indiana to pass the winter and prepare for removal to their Iowa homes in the early spring.

Early in May, 1837, Philip Clark and Eli Myers reached the homes selected by them the year before on the western limits of the Black Hawk purchase, bringing with them teams and oxen, implements, seed for planting and food to maintain them until crops could be grown. Having rested their teams the breaking was started and by the



PHILIP CLARK.  
FOUNDER OF THE FIRST HOME IN JOHNSON COUNTY



20th of May, 1837, each of the pioneers had planted upon the fresh turned sod of their new homes ten acres of corn and and a goodly acreage of potatoes and other vegetables.

The farm selected by Mr. Clark was situated southeast of the trading house and in after years was divided and formed what was known as the Morford and Burge farms of Pleasant Valley. As first staked out by Mr. Clark it comprised about 480 acres.

Philip Clark was born in Ireland about 1803. Coming to America he formed part of the wave of humanity that, flowing ever westward, built their homes upon the lands of the rapidly vanishing aborigines.

The western line of the Black Hawk purchase entered what is now Johnson county near the southwest corner of Liberty township and ran thence in a straight course northeastwardly to a point in Cedar township where it crossed Cedar river. All west of that line was Indian land until October, 1837, at which time the Sac and Fox Indians sold all their lands in Iowa. At the time Clark and Myers made their location they were within one mile of the Indian lands. Mr. Clark retained his first claim until 1838, when he exchanged it for one further up the river.

With the increase of settlers came divided opinion as to the location of a town site which in time would become the county seat. One party favored a location west of the river and they determined to name their town Osceola. The other party, under the lead of Gilbert and Clark, favored a town east of the river, and they selected upon Indian land in what is now section 22 East Lucas township for a town site and obtaining consent of the Indians

they built thereon a small cabin and employed John Morford to live in it and hold the claim for them when the Indians should sell and vacate the land.

After the treaty of 1837 the town site became government land and Clark traded his farm located in 1836 for the Morford claim and proceeded to lay out a large town, giving it the name of Napoleon. A court house was built and on July 4, 1838, Napoleon became the county seat of Johnson county. Philip Clark, after the location of the territorial capital at Iowa City, converted the town of Napoleon into a farm and for many years was one of the foremost farmers and business men of the county. At the second election of county officers, Mr. Clark was chosen as one of the county commissioners, which position he held for several years. In January, 1840, he went to the Dubuque land office for the county and filed a pre-emption claim on the quarter section that had been selected as the county seat. Later in that year he was appointed to lay out the county quarter into blocks and lots and in much of the early territorial and county business and many of the stirring events of pioneer times he took a prominent part.

In 1844 Mr. Clark married Miss Clarissa Lee. In the spring of 1850 he gave his brother-in-law power of attorney; left his wife and son and his great farm of 740 acres in his keeping, and with Eli Myers started overland for the gold mines of California. Soon after reaching their destination Mr. Myers died, and with varying fortunes Mr. Clark worked in the mines until 1857, when on horseback he made his way from Sacramento to Iowa City to find his wife estranged, his great farm sold and his home destroyed by the villiany of his trusted agent and friend. After a long contest with a gang of thieves and their employers he regained possession of his prop-

erty. Some years later he sold it and the early county seat and the site of the town of Napoleon became the present farm of James McCollister.

Obtaining land in Newport township, Mr. Clark there conducted a farm. Though partially blind and much bent with age Mr. Clark remained active in mind and body up to the time of his death which occurred at his home September 10, 1891, at the age of eighty-seven years.

It is not creditable that the man who first founded a home within the county should rest in an unknown and unmarked grave on land he gave for the use of the church and a cemetery.

G. R. IRISH.

## GILBERT'S OLD TRADING HOUSE.

To Pleasant Valley township belongs the distinction of being the first commercial center of Johnson county, at a time when trade consisted of barter with the Indians for the pelts and furs that were the only products dealt in; and also of being the starting point of settlement within its borders. In it were held the first business meetings and election of the early days. And there was celebrated the first marriage of white people in the county. Also there was born the first white child in the county and there occurred the first death of a white person.

In the summer of 1837, John Gilbert, having quit the service as agent of the American Fur Company determined to start a trading post of his own and selecting a site west of the line of the Black Hawk purchase upon Indian land, he built for himself a trading house which stood in the southwest corner of section thirty-five in East Lucas township.

The building was neatly constructed of round logs. It consisted of two cabins twenty feet square and a roofed space of twenty feet between them, making a structure twenty by sixty feet with puncheon floors and clapboard roof. For the permit to build on Indian territory Mr. Gilbert gave to Chief Poweshiek two barrels of whiskey.

In that building on January 8, 1838, pursuant to notice, the citizens of the county met to talk over the needs of the settlement and petition the legislature for action in several matters of importance. On motion Henry Felkner was chosen chairman and Pleasant Harris, Eli Myers and John Gilbert were chosen as a committee to draft resolu-

tions expressive of the sense of the meeting. After consultation, Judge Harris, made report as follows:

Whereas, A large number of persons have settled on the Iowa river, on public lands in the vicinity of John Gilbert's trading house and there is evidence that the settlement will be greatly increased in numbers next spring;

Whereas, There is great inconvenience for want of roads, bridges and mail facilities, therefore,

Resolved, That two persons be appointed by the chairman of this meeting whose duty shall be to proceed forthwith to Burlington and use their influence with the legislature now in session there to establish roads at different points on the Mississippi river and memorialize congress to establish a mail route from Burlington to the trading post of John Gilbert, provide for a postoffice there and the appointment of a postmaster without delay.

John Gilbert and Pleasant Harris were appointed to go to Burlington and they made the trip on foot. The snow was a foot deep and weather very cold. Their mission did not produce any immediate results. In the following year Mr. Gilbert was appointed postmaster and his commission reached him on March 6, 1839. Two days later he died.

On June 1, 1838, a second meeting of settlers was held in the trading house at which they petitioned the legislature to organize the county of Johnson and establish the seat of justice at or in the town of Napoleon. On June 22, the bill to organize the county and establish the seat of justice at Napoleon was passed and the rival town of Osceola was blotted out.

On May 13, 1839, the first court held in Johnson county





GILBERT'S OLD TRADING HOUSE.

convened at the Gilbert trading house, Judge Joseph Williams on the bench. The grand and petit juries were called and the grand jury presented an indictment against Andrew J. Gregg for horse stealing. On the motion of T. S. Parvin, Wm. E. Austin was admitted as an attorney and counsellor of the court. There being no further business the juries were discharged and the district court adjourned.

On the next day the grand jury was recalled and sworn as a United States grand jury for the territory of Iowa and proceeded to find an indictment against Gregg for passing counterfeit money; was then discharged and the United States court adjourned.

The old trading house was not only the place of many important business transactions in very early times, but it was there that many romantic, pathetic and warlike scenes were enacted. A short distance west of it was Powesheik's town of about two thousand Indians. Gone are the Indians and the hardy pioneers who pressed them still farther to the west. The pictures of the buildings wherein was planned the foundations of the early improvement of the county, where the claim association met to form rules that were for a time the well enforced law of the land; where the first towns were put upon the map, and the early roads marked out; where the vanquished warriors returned to report disaster and claim protection of the whites, where lived and died the first white citizen and merchant to inhabit the county is a reminder of times long passed, of changed conditions and of men long gone.

G. R. IRISH.

The old trading house after use as a store, court house, and farmer's dwelling, was destroyed by fire in the early seventies.



## A HUNTING ITEM.

Recent investigation having resulted in the finding of many of the remains of the buffalo in the western part of the state has caused much discussion in regard to the time when elk and buffalo were common in Iowa, and the incident related by Mr. Hiram H. Ludington who with Charles Mullan founded the city of Waterloo, is of interest. He said that he came to Iowa in 1852, and deer and elk were plenty in Blackhawk county at that time. His description of a hunt is as follows:

## AN IOWA BUFFALO HUNT IN 1852.

“There were buffalo in scattered herds, and plenty of beaver, otter, mink and other fur-bearing animals. Did you ever dream of a buffalo hunt in Black Hawk county? No? Well, I killed three buffaloes while we lived in Hudson in the winter of 1852-53.

“It was along early in December, and I remember that the first snow was on the ground. My brother-in-law, a young man named John Lang, about seventeen years old, who lived with us, and I had gone out to hunt coons. We hunted along the Black Hawk to a point which, I think, was about three miles west of Hudson, near what is now the Sam Gibson place. At that place a little creek flows into the Black Hawk. At that point we saw a drove of buffaloes on the opposite side of the creek, and at first we thought they were cattle, then it struck us that they might be bears. I said to my brother-in-law, ‘You hold the dogs and I will investigate and see what sort of animals they are.’

“I went up onto the ice to a place where I could crawl up on them and, after I had worked myself along for some distance in the snow, I raised up, but could see nothing.

Finally about ten feet away from where I was, I saw a buffalo in a thicket of hazel brush. I got a shot at him and he fell. Then I fell to loading again as fast as I could, but the buffalo got up and finally managed to get away. By this time I got sight of a buffalo cow on a side hill, and I shot her, the ball entering her eye. She fell over and rolled down into the creek, or rather onto the ice.

“I saw several other buffaloes about six or eight rods away and I fired at a large bull. He didn’t appear to pay very much attention to the shot and so I loaded and gave it to him again, this time using two balls. He switched around as though he didn’t like the dose and this time I saw that the herd was getting a trifle uneasy. Just then another one jumped out broadside toward me and I shot him through the heart. He fell and expired immediately. All this time I had failed to notice that I was directly in the trail that the buffaloes had taken to reach the spot where they were. I observed this fact, however, in a few moments, when the whole herd came charging down toward where I stood. I saw a jack oak tree a short distance from me and I made for it. I got there when the buffaloes were about a rod and a half away, and—well, I climbed that tree, and I wasn’t very slow about it either. As they went past me I couldn’t shoot any of them, because there was no cap on my rifle.

“There were twenty-eight buffaloes in the herd and I got two of them. I found afterward that the reason I did not get more was because I had been shooting too high to reach their vital parts. I had been accustomed to hunting deer and knew very little about killing buffaloes. I shot in all twenty-eight times, or once for each member of the herd, though I did not shoot at all of them. Sometimes I used two balls in my rifle and sometimes three.

“The next day a buffalo calf came to the place where I had killed the cow and I got that. The day after John Virden and I went up to the forks of the Black Hawk, about five or six miles, and we got another, but that was the last we saw of the herd, and it is probable that was the last herd of buffaloes that was ever in this section. A few days after a party who was going from what was known as Hardin City to Cedar Falls, came across the large buffalo that I had wounded. He had got separated from the rest of the herd and was so badly hurt that they killed him by knocking him on the head.”

### A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF THE STATE.

An article appearing in the Des Moines Capital, dated Indianola, ascribed to a graybeard of that place the honor of having lived longer in this state than any other person. He stated that he came here in 1836. Mrs. Emily Ricord of this city has lived in the state since 1834 and in the county since 1840. Mrs. Ricord is well known here. The Indianola correspondent to the Capital made a poor guess.





